

BLOOMFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

LAND USE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

There was a regular meeting of the above referenced subcommittee held on Tuesday, January 20, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in Conference Room #5, Bloomfield Town Hall, 800 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield, CT.

Committee members present were: Deputy Mayor Gamble, Councilors Merritt, DeLorenzo, Rivers and Washington

Also present were: Philip K. Schenck, Jr., Town Manager, Jose Giner, Director of Planning and India Rodgers, Clerk of Council

Absent was: Councilor Neuwirth

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Discussion regarding Branding Options for Downtown Bloomfield

Deputy Mayor Gamble informed the subcommittee that the Economic Development Commission suggested renaming the Bloomfield Center to “Downtown Bloomfield”. Members of this subcommittee were not in favor of this recommendation. Committee members also expressed their concerns about the disagreement on the “downtown” catch phrase.

Councilor Washington suggested a potential slogan for the town center, “A small town doing big things”.

It was moved by Councilor DeLorenzo, seconded by Councilor Washington and voted unanimously to not recommend renaming the Bloomfield Center to “Downtown Bloomfield”.

Discussion on Possible Signage for Town Hall (Evening/Weekend Parking)

There has been discussion regarding additional parking at Town Hall as recommended in the Town Center Plan. There are some considerations that need to be explored such as a possible easement from local businesses and the Town Hall parking lot. Some issues may include but not limited to minor engineering options such as: drainage to expand, easy accessibility and connectivity.

It was moved by Councilor Rivers, seconded by Councilor Washington and voted unanimously to install signage at Town Hall for evening and weekend parking availability.

There was a brief discussion regarding the possible discontinuation of Seneca Road. A traffic study needs to be developed to determine pedestrian and vehicular impediments. However, there may be a conflict of interest with another traffic and pedestrian circulation study to connect individuals to parking lots per the Town Center Plan.

Mr. Philip Schenck, Jr., Town Manager and other Councilors mentioned the danger of persons walking along Mountain Avenue over the hill towards Brown Street. There are no sidewalks in this area. The cost to install sidewalks is estimated to cost approximately \$440,000.

Mr. Jose Giner, Director of Planning recommended the town develop a “Streets Policy”. Mr. Giner will have further information and details regarding this policy at the next scheduled meeting.

Discussion on Possible Ordinances to enforce businesses to update physical facilities

The committee discussed the possibility to establish ordinances to address commercial blight issues.

Councilor DeLorenzo inquired if the Economic Development Commission (EDC) recommend draft language about a potential ordinance with specific criteria. It was noted that this is not the prevue of the commission and any ideas should come from town administration and staff expertise.

Other Business

Wintonbury Mall – Goman & York will begin the discussion of developing options of what the town would want to see at the property. This property is also in movement out of receivership.

Historic Homes – the town will designate and identify these homes as recommended in the town plan.

Mr. Giner gave a brief update of various economic development projects in town:

- The new development of Bloomfield Apartments should have their ground breaking in September 2015.
- Waypoint Craft Spirits (Distillers), 410 Woodland Avenue will open in March 2015.
- Lens Only – new business will be located next door to Subway on Park Avenue. They are scheduled to open in February 2015.
- Deringer-Ney are in the process of presenting before Inlands/Wetlands Commission and the Town Plan & Zoning Commission for approval.

- Rotary Club will have a “Pizza Bowl” fundraiser at the Thomas Hooker Brewery on January 25, 2015 from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Adjournment

It was moved by Councilor Rivers, seconded by Councilor DeLorenzo and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

DRAFT